



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Chief Executives
Orkney Islands Council
Shetland Islands Council
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Argyll and Bute Council
Highland Council
North Ayrshire Council

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

1 July 2022

By email only

Dear Chief Executives,

SCOTTISH BUDGET 2023-24

The Committee considered its approach to its scrutiny of the 2023-24 budget at its meeting on 29 June 2022.

As well as considering the overall rural affairs and islands budget, the Committee has agreed a specific focus on the Scottish Government's Islands Programme and financial commitments to support the implementation of the Islands Plan.

The Committee agreed to write to the six island local authorities to ask for the following information about—

- how the competitive process, as [announced by the Scottish Government in March](#), is working for the six local authorities with islands;
- your views on the criteria used to assess and award bids;
- how this approach is different to how Islands Programme funding was previously allocated;
- how island communities have contributed to the development of these bids;
- how this investment works with other capital funding, e.g. the Islands Growth Deal, capital grants from the Scottish Government, HIE, any levelling-up funding and the Scottish National Investment Bank; and

- how Islands Programme projects will impact population levels on the most vulnerable islands and communities.

I would be grateful for a response by Friday 27 August 2022.

Please contact the clerks to the Committee, via the above contact details, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee